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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented): An image printing device comprising:
   an input for receiving an image data signal in said image printing device; and
   a processor in said image printing device for receiving and processing said image data signal;
   wherein
   at a certain stage of the processing said image data signal contains one bit per pixel data specifying location data for each dot of which an image described by said image data signal is constituted but not a size for each said dot, and
   said processor estimates a dot density in a defined area around each said dot, and determines a size for each said dot based on the estimated dot density for that said dot.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Cancelled).

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4. (Currently Amended): ~~The image printing device of claim 2~~ An image
    printing device comprising:
    an input for receiving an image data signal in said image printing device;
    and
    a processor in said image printing device for receiving and processing
    said image data signal;
    wherein
    said image data signal contains data specifying location data for each dot
    of which an image described by said image data signal is constituted,
    said processor determines a size for each said dot based on dot density
    data derived from said location data of said image data signal,
    said processor is programmed to count a number of dots specified by said
    location data for printing in a square matrix centered on a particular dot for
    which dot,
    wherein
    size is to be determined and to calculate a dot density estimation based
    on said number of dots in said square matrix;
    and wherein said square matrix has five pixels to a side.

5. (Currently Amended): ~~The image printing device of claim 2~~ An image
    printing device comprising:
    an input for receiving an image data signal in said image printing device;
    and
    a processor in said image printing device for receiving and processing
    said image data signal;
    wherein
    said image data signal contains data specifying location data for each dot
    of which an image described by said image data signal is constituted,
    said processor determines a size for each said dot based on dot density
    data derived from said location data of said image data signal, and
    said processor is programmed to count a number of dots specified by said
    location data for printing in a square matrix centered on a particular dot for
    which dot,
    wherein
    size is to be determined and to calculate a dot density estimation based
    on said number of dots in said square matrix,
    and wherein said processor, in calculating said dot density, weights each
    counted dot based on proximity to a center of said square matrix.

6. (Original): The image printing device of claim 1, wherein said printing
    device prints said image using said location data in said image data signal
    and dot size data determined by said processor.

7. (Original): The image printing device of claim 1, wherein said printing
    device is a laser printer.

8. (Original): The image printing device of claim 1, wherein said printing
    device is an ink-jet printer.

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9. (Original): The image printing device of claim 1, wherein said printing device is a fax machine.

10. (Original): A method of printing an image with an image printing device based on an image data signal that comprises data specifying print location data for each dot that constitutes said image, said method comprising determining a size for each said dot based on said print location data of said image data signal.

11. (Original): The method of claim 10, wherein said determining a size for each said dot further comprises, determining a density of dots around that dot for which size is being determined and determining said size for that dot based on said density.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended): ~~The method of claim 12,~~ A method of printing an image with an image printing device based on an image data signal that comprises data specifying print location data for each dot that constitutes said image, said method comprising determining a size for each said dot based on said print location data of said image data signal, the determining including counting a number of dots specified by said print location data for printing in a square matrix centered on a particular dot for which dot size is to be determined; calculating a dot density estimation based on said number of dots in said square matrix; and ~~further comprising~~ defining said square matrix as having five pixels to a side.

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15. (Currently Amended): ~~The method of claim 12,~~ <u>A method of printing an image with an image printing device based on an image data signal that comprises data specifying print location data for each dot that constitutes said image, said method comprising</u> <u>determining a size for each said dot based on said print location data of said image data signal, the determining including counting a number of dots specified by said print location data for printing in a square matrix centered on a particular dot for which dot size is to be determined; calculating a dot density estimation based on said number of dots in said square matrix;</u>

<u>and</u> wherein said calculating a dot density estimation further comprises weighting each counted dot based on proximity to a center of said square matrix.

16. (Original): The method of claim 10, further comprising printing said image with said printing device using said location data in said image data signal and dot size data.

17. (Previously Presented): An image printing device comprising:
means for receiving an image data signal in said image printing processor
means in said image printing device for receiving and
processing said image data signal, wherein at a certain stage of the
processing of said image data signal contains data specifying location
data for each dot of which an image described by said image data signal
is constituted but not a size for each said dot,
said processor means comprising means for estimating a dot density in a
defined area around each said dot, and means for determining a size for
each said dot based on the estimated dot density for that said dot.

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Cancelled).

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20. (Previously Presented): Computer-readable instructions stored on a media for recording computer-readable instructions, wherein said instructions cause a processing device, that processes a one bit per pixel image data signal comprising data specifying print location data for each dot that constitutes an image but not a size for each said dot, to estimate a dot density in a defined area around each said dot, and determine a size for each said dot based on the estimated dot density for that said dot.

21. (Original): The computer readable instructions of claim 20, wherein said instructions further cause said processing device to:
    determine a density of dots around that dot for which size is being determined; and
    determine said size for that dot based on said density.

22. (Cancelled).

23. (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 10, wherein the one bit per pixel image data signal is received by the image printing device from an external device.

24. (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 10, wherein the one bit per pixel image data signal is derived from a continuous-tone image data signal.

25. (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 24, wherein the one bit per pixel image data signal is generated by the image printing device from the continuous-tone image data signal.

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26. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 24, further comprising:
    processing the continuous-tone image data signal to form a multiple bits
    per pixel image data signal that defines a density of the dots that
    constitute said image; and
    error-diffusing the multiple bits per pixel image data signa to form the one
    bit per pixel image data signal.

27. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 26, wherein the processing
    and the error-diffusing are performed by an external device coupled to the
    image printing device.

28. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 26, wherein the processing
    and the error-diffusing are performed by the image printing device.

29. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 26, wherein the multiple bits
    per pixel image data signal is an eight bits per pixel image data signal.

30. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 10, wherein the defined ara
    has a predetermined size that is the same for each said dot.

31. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the defined area
    has a predetermined size that is the same for each said dot.